



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - February 3, 2003

- ***In the West***, a few snow showers linger across the ***northern Rockies***, but unfavorably dry weather persists elsewhere from the ***Rockies westward***. Among the effects of long-term ***Western*** precipitation deficits are low reservoir levels and drought-damaged rangelands, particularly east of the ***Sierra Nevada***.
- ***On the Plains***, the return of cold weather follows recent record warmth. ***Northern Plains'*** winter wheat fields recently lost most of their protective snow cover, but a developing storm system is producing highly beneficial snow in parts of ***eastern Colorado, western Kansas, and southern Nebraska***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, a developing storm system is providing beneficial moisture, although snow is disrupting travel from the ***middle Missouri Valley to the upper Great Lakes region***. In recent months, a developing ***Midwestern*** drought has been most serious from ***northern Missouri to Lower Michigan***.
- ***In the South***, showers and thunderstorms are causing only minor fieldwork delays from the ***Delta westward***, while warm, dry weather prevails in the ***southern Atlantic region***.

Outlook: A developing winter storm will bring a mix of precipitation to the ***central Plains and Midwest*** before moving into the ***Northeast***, while a trailing cold front will produce showers and thunderstorms across the ***Tennessee Valley, Southeast, and Mid-Atlantic States***. Meanwhile, cold weather will settle across the ***Plains and Rockies***, with periods of light snow possible across ***northern and central Rockies and High Plains***. Mostly dry, breezy conditions will prevail in the Pacific Coast States. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for February 8-12 calls for below-normal precipitation in the ***upper Midwest and Pacific Northwest***, while wetter-than-normal weather is forecast for the ***southern one-third of the U.S. and the central Plains***. Below-normal temperatures are expected across most of the nation.

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